

Have You Seen A RED BOOK?

EVERY year in October or November, when Congress has dealt with all the military issues, the NGAUS professional staff commences a detailed review of what the year produced. Then, it projects its collective thinking into the future and attempts to identify the issues that will come to the fore in the year ahead.

Finally, it analyzes the facts, suppositions and clues emerging from its review and produces the draft of a "game plan" for the year ahead. This takes the form of an array of suggested NGAUS positions on significant issues. The whole package then is distributed to members of the Executive Council for their perusal and study.

This is the first step in the production of the NGAUS RED BOOK. The annual RED BOOK is a compilation of facts, important developments, issues and position statements touching every phase of the Guard's extensive program.

In January, the Executive Council journeys to Washington where it undertakes its own discussion of issues raised in the RED BOOK draft, then makes the final decision on what the official NGAUS position will be on each.

The Council also reviews the legislative and policy issues on which the preceding General Conference has directed that action be taken, and establishes a list of priority topics to be dealt with during the upcoming legislative year. This year's priority issues are listed elsewhere in this issue, as a part of the article titled "State of the Guard — 1978."

The RED BOOK is probably the only reference work of its kind that's published on a regular basis. Nowhere else can you find such a detailed compilation of facts, combined with shrewd analysis as to what it all means for the Guard and the Guard's future.

The first section assumes the character of a situation report on the major functional areas of the Guard's exis-

tence — manpower, force structure, equipment, readiness, construction and fiscal affairs. In each section is discussed the significant events of the past year, and developments that will have a substantial impact on the Guard in the year ahead. That is followed by an analysis and a list of conclusions growing out of that analysis.

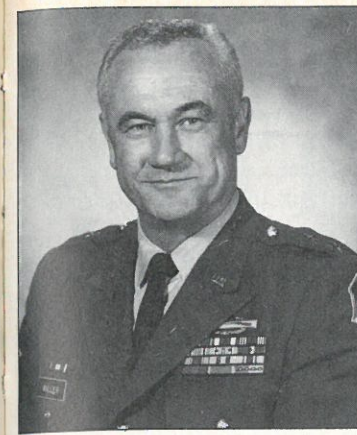
A sub-section contains summaries of the resolutions adopted by the 99th General Conference. These establish the policies of the NGAUS toward a wide range of current issues.

As the year progresses, up-dates will be sent to RED BOOK holders to reflect events. This is a change from last year, when the NGAUS WASHINGTON LETTER also was used as a vehicle for up-dating the RED BOOK. Henceforth, the WASHINGTON LETTER will be purely a newsletter, to convey information on legislative developments. In a new development, the WASHINGTON LETTER mailing list is being expanded to cover some 4,500 Guard commanders, down to company (ARNG) and squadron (ANG) level.

But the RED BOOK is only as valuable as the use to which Guard leaders put it. If commanders treat it only as a personal document, to be kept on their shelves and never used by others, then it is largely wasted. NGAUS spends a great deal of time and effort producing a document that can work for the Guard every day and in every part of the country. It is distributed to 1,500 commanders, down to battalion (ARNG) and squadron (ANG) level. Cost prevents wider distribution.

The information and guidance it contains, however, can help a staff officer write a speech, provide facts for a company commander to use in a command information class, give the information officer some solid data for a fact sheet, or form the basis for a briefing for a group of local officials on what the Guard is and does.

It also discusses, in detail, federal legislation that will



Maj Gen Richard A. Miller
(Oregon Army Guard),
President,
National Guard Association
of the United States

impact on the Guard and explains how to keep members of Congress from local areas well-informed on Guard activities and needs.

This is a critical year for the National Guard. The Total Force policy is threatened as never before by obsessive short-war thinking and long-standing Department of Defense neglect of the Guard and Reserve. Guardsmen need, as never before, to be providing factual, accurate, full information on the Guard to members of Congress and to officials at the lower governmental levels. The RED BOOK is an assurance that the information they provide will be accurate and significant.

Therefore, commanders who receive a new 1978 RED BOOK (Due to be shipped by 1 March) can achieve maximum effectiveness if they pass the word to subordinates — to anyone who deals with public officials — that the RED BOOK's full of valuable information and can be found in the "Old Man's" office.

Better yet, reproduce it in reasonable numbers and make it available at lower command levels. Beyond that, leave it at the unit when you move on to a higher assignment.

Queries frequently are heard from Guard officers: What do the State National Guard Associations, and NGAUS, do for me? I'll answer that by asking, in turn: Have you ever read the RED BOOK?

The National GUARDSMAN

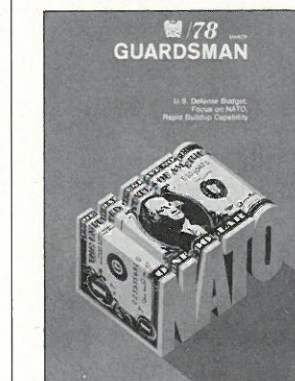
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Cover: Artist William Duffy conveys the NATO orientation of the FY 1979 defense budget with his combination of massive initials — N-A-T-O — and the symbolism of American dollars. Coupled with the cover design are articles describing the defense budget in general and the National Guard budget in particular.

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Circulation Don DesJardins

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